

AFAFD Standard Operating Procedure 34

Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction

- Suspicious package – An explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) incident and must be reported to and investigated by Security Forces and EOD personnel with Security Forces having incident command
- Unknown Substance (e.g., powder, liquid, aerosol, etc.) – Follow the procedures for a hazardous materials release with the fire department providing incident command.
- Emergency responders, in both situations, must consider the possibility of a terrorist threat (or multiple threats) and take the necessary precautions.
- Initial response requires a minimum of one engine company and a senior fire official to any unknown or suspicious substance or any situation size-up that indicates a possible WMD.
- After all hostile force/terrorist activity has been neutralized by SF, assume command of on-scene operations and perform On-Scene Commander (OSC) duties until the arrival of the designated OSC.
- Initial response will focus on worse-case scenarios and be downgraded as information is obtained and evaluated.
 - Determine the initial cordon size based on the type and quantity of material involved at the incident.
 - Evacuation or sheltering in place will be addresses as soon as possible based on information available during initial size-up.
 - USAF Guidance: For WMD Terrorist Incident of unknown type, default to 2000' minimum cordon distance.
 - Activation of the DCG will be accomplished if issues concerning life safety, current threat level, and critical infrastructures are at risk, or when the Senior Fire Official requests activation.
 - Prior to sampling, containment, or confinement of an unknown substance, appropriate decontamination, medical, and rehabilitation resources will be in place.
 - Recognized hazardous materials entry team protocols will be adhered to including recognition, identification, control/containment, and rapid intervention team protocols.